

# **Garbage Gazette**

**Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection**

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## **New Greenbuilding Display Available**

The Pollution Prevention program will unveil their latest traveling display that focuses on green building materials. "Greenbuilding" is a term applied to the construction and rehabilitation of buildings which have environmentally friendly characteristics resulting from an integrated design process to improve energy efficiency, conserve materials and resources, enhance indoor environmental quality, safeguard water, and recognize context and impacts beyond site boundaries. The three-panel display allows observers to remove building materials from the display to feel and study their characteristics. Many of the building materials, which can be used in the construction of our homes, schools, and places of work, are made from recycled products. Some of the represented building tiles include erosion control mat made from recycled soda bottles, decking made from reclaimed wood and recycled grocery bags, and slate-like roofing materials made from 100% recycled rubber and industrial plastics. The Connecticut Green Building Council will also promote the exhibit; an organization dedicated to educating design professionals, the construction industry, and the general public about the benefits of green building. To make arrangements to borrow the display, please call the CT DEP Pollution Prevention Office at (860) 424-3297.

## **Foodshare Recycles Spoiled Produce**

Bringing fresh produce to hungry people before it spoils is a challenge to Foodshare and their partner agencies. Through the help of a DEP grant, this task will hopefully become easier, and help our environment too.



Foodshare has recently moved its agricultural division from Windsor to the Regional Market in Hartford. The Regional Market is a produce terminal from which major wholesalers distribute produce to local grocery stores. This move is expected to result in less spoilage and more useable food, as it will be more convenient and timely for wholesalers to donate produce before it goes bad. But, some spoilage is inevitable. Fruit and vegetables that do spoil are processed through a hammer mill (grinder) that pulverizes the produce into a slurry (liquefied vegetable waste), and discharges it into a sealed 6,000 gallon holding tank for storage. Periodically, the slurry is collected using a vacuum truck and transported to approved organic waste recycling facilities.

The pilot program began operation in late October. A total of 28,875 pounds of spoiled produce was put through the grinder during the first six weeks of operation generating approximately 3,500 gallons of slurry. On December 17, 2002, the first batch of vegetable slurry was delivered to Old Maids Farm in Glastonbury, CT where it will be composted and used to enrich the soil on the organic farm. Prior to this program, all of this waste would have been thrown in the garbage and burned at the Hartford Resource Recovery plant.

As the seasons change, Foodshare will likely see variations in volumes and types of vegetables donated which will effect the quantity of slurry generated. They will be experimenting with different evacuation methods and bringing the nutrient-rich slurry to different farms for recycling. Other farms close to Hartford are welcome to inquire about

receiving the slurry by contacting Tim McGuire at the CT Department of Agriculture 860-713-2504. More information and photos of the project can be found at <http://www.dep.state.ct.us/wst/compost/foodsharepilot.htm> or by contacting K.C. Alexander, DEP Compost Specialist at 860-424-3239 or [kathy.alexander@po.state.ct.us](mailto:kathy.alexander@po.state.ct.us)

## Connecticut Recycles Day Prize Winners Announced

Prizes have been distributed in the drawing of promise cards from the sixth annual celebration of Connecticut Recycles Day. Over 3,600 promise cards were collected from individuals and 110 events took place at businesses, schools, state agencies, non-profits and individual municipalities. We are grateful for the sponsorship of the following donors, many of whom have provided prizes since the Connecticut program began in 1997. Congratulations to all of the lucky winners!! Please note that the youth prizes are given to the school of the winner. Each youth winner also received a package of recycled products including a t-shirt, tote bag, slinky, frisbee, neck wallet, mug and glass marble key chain. To get information about the national prize-winners, visit [www.americarecyclesday.org](http://www.americarecyclesday.org).

### Adult Prizes

#### **6 Recycled fleece vests**

*Sponsored by Tetra Pak*

Winners:

Elaine DeStefano, Quaker Hill  
Anne Abramson, Cheshire  
Tim Griswold, Old Lyme  
Paul Raimondi, Niantic  
Gail Blythe, Hartford  
Cliff Robertson, Middletown

#### **2-night stay at Foxwoods**

*Sponsored by the Mashantucket Pequots*

Winner; Niki Beel, West Haven

#### **\$100 Gift-certificate**

*Sponsored by Its Only Natural Restaurant*

Winner: German Cruz, Waterbury

#### **Compost bin & Rain Saver**

*Donated by Signature Marketing*

Winner: Sherri Sowik, Mansfield Center

#### **Dinner at Seasons Buffet for 2**

*Donated by Mohegan Sun*

Winner: Pat Falcon, Avon



### Youth Prizes

#### **Computer**

*Sponsored by J.C. Penney Catalogue Fulfillment Center in Manchester*

Dana Pendleton, Goodwin Elementary School, Old Saybrook

#### **\$500 in recycling services for fluorescent bulb**

*Donated by Northeast lamp*

Maura McCarthy, Laurelton High School, Milford

#### **Park Bench made from recycled materials**

*Donated by O'Brien and Sons*

Stephanie Allen, Clark Lane Middle School, Waterford

#### **Park Benches made from recycled materials**

*Donated by Pitney Bowes*

Winners:

Ryan Sullivan, Flanders Elementary School, East Lyme  
Sean Campbell, Avon Middle School, Avon  
Kathy Lesiczka, Middletown High School, Middletown

#### **\$250 for Library books**

*Sponsored by Tetra Pak*

Vincent Keeney, Avon Middle School